

IN THE CLAIMS:

✓ Please cancel claims 1-14 and 16, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims:

*7-11, 1, 124* <sup>18</sup>  
~~17~~. (New) A variant vascular endothelial cell growth factor (VEGF) polypeptide which is capable of binding to a VEGF receptor without significantly inducing a VEGF response, said variant polypeptide comprising an amino acid modification of at least one cysteine residue in VEGF, wherein said amino acid modification inhibits disulfide bond formation.

<sup>18</sup>  
~~18~~. (New) The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim <sup>18</sup>~~17~~ wherein said amino acid modification is a substitution of said at least one cysteine residue with a different amino acid which is incapable of participating in the formation of a disulfide bond.

*G1* <sup>19</sup>  
~~19~~. (New) The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim <sup>19</sup>~~18~~ wherein said cysteine is at amino acid position 51 and/or 60.

<sup>18</sup>  
~~20~~. (New) The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim <sup>18</sup>~~17~~ wherein said VEGF polypeptide is capable of inhibiting induction of a VEGF response.

<sup>21</sup>  
~~21~~. (New) The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim <sup>21</sup>~~20~~ wherein said variant VEGF response is mitogenic activity.

<sup>19</sup>  
~~22~~. (New) The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim <sup>19</sup>~~18~~ wherein two cysteines are substituted with a different amino acid at amino acid positions 51 and 60.

<sup>19</sup>  
~~23~~ (New) The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim ~~18~~ wherein said cysteine is at amino acid position 51.

<sup>19</sup>  
~~24~~ (New) The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim ~~18~~ wherein said cysteine is at amino acid position 60.

<sup>19</sup>  
~~25~~ (New) The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim ~~18~~ wherein aspartic acid is substituted for cysteine.

<sup>24</sup>  
~~26~~ (New) The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim ~~23~~ comprising the substitution C51D.

<sup>25</sup>  
~~27~~ (New) The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim ~~24~~ comprising the substitution C60D.

<sup>18</sup>  
~~28~~ (New) The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim ~~17~~ wherein said amino acid modification is a chemical modification of said at least one cysteine residue which renders said cysteine residue incapable of participating in the formation of a disulfide bond.

<sup>29</sup>  
~~30~~ (New) The variant VEGF polypeptide according to claim ~~28~~ wherein said chemical modification is of a cysteine residue at amino acid position 51 and/or 60 of the native VEGF amino acid sequence.

<sup>31</sup>  
30. (New) An isolated nucleic acid sequence comprising a sequence that encodes the  
variant VEGF polypeptide of claim <sup>18</sup>17.

<sup>32</sup>  
31. (New) A replicable expression vector capable in a transformant host cell of expressing  
the nucleic acid of claim <sup>31</sup>30.

<sup>33</sup>  
32. (New) Host cells transformed with the vector according to claim <sup>32</sup>31.

<sup>34</sup>  
33. (New) Host cells according to claim <sup>33</sup>32 which are Chinese hamster ovary cells.

<sup>35</sup>  
34. (New) A composition of matter comprising the variant VEGF polypeptide according  
to claim <sup>18</sup>17 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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